

Where are fans as top team fall?

By MIKE ALLEN

TOP of the table Harrow Borough Reserves were sent to their second Suburban League North Division defeat of the season when they went down 2-0 at Loakes Park to Wycombe Reserves on Saturday.

A scrappy first goal and a brilliantly executed second, both by Andy Hunt, ensured Wycombe of two points against a side which appeared to show little commitment to the match.

The few chances that were

Wycombe Res 2, Harrow Res 0

created in a dour first half went Wycombe's way, but Hunt twice and Terry Scott once, saw the goalkeeper equal to their attempts on goal.

The second half was all Wycombe and in the 51st minute a fine move ended with a goal — albeit a scrappy one. Mick Holifield and Nick Shrimpton combined to split the Harrow defence, the former shot, and in the melee that followed Hunt was adjudged to have got the final touch although Scott was also in attendance at the kill.

From that point on Harrow barely got a sniff of the ball except the goalkeeper

who was down well to save after Scott had just reached a Holifield cross with his toe.

Then came Hunt's second goal. He intercepted the ball as the keeper came out for it, went wide, and looked to have gone too far when he unleashed a powerful shot from the narrowest of angles into the net.

Simon Dexter should have made it 3-0, but from a yard missed. And then Wycombe were unlucky to be awarded only an indirect free kick when Shrimpton was sent flying by a challenge in the penalty area.

It was unfortunate that no more than 100 people saw the performance. The figure disappointed members of the club involved with the Reserve side. They feel supporters put pressure on the club to run a second team, yet few turn up to watch them play.

There are some skilful players in the side and the committee are mystified as to why so few people turn up to lend their support. The players are the locals the public have been calling for, and after a sticky patch have shot up the league with some impressive results.

Criticism

First team manager Mike Keen is not exempt from some criticism by some members of the club. They say he implemented the reserve side yet gives few of the players from it a taste of first team football.

In his defence Mr Keen could point to Paul West, who played on Saturday at Croydon, and Phil Bycroft as having been given their chance but must wait their turn before becoming regular first teamers.

Two players at Loakes Park on Saturday are certainly knocking on the first team door — apart from Bycroft. Simon Dexter in the middle of the park was the inspiration behind most of his side's moves, and Andy Hunt showed just what a devastating finisher he is with his second goal.

Wycombe Wanderers Reserves: C. Way (sub K. Stansbridge 83 mins), T. Lee, G. Marshall, I. Rundle, P. Bycroft, S. Dexter, M. Holifield, M. Richardson, A. Hunt, T. Scott, N. Shrimpton. Sub: N. Collier (not used).

Harrow Borough Reserves: J. Farrier, M. Brady, V. Duncan, A. Menson, R. Howard, R. Howder, C. Stein (sub R. Mount 64 mins), G. West, J. Powell, S. Emmanuel, K. Butcher. Sub: P. Fitzgerald (not used).

Referee: Mr Registrar.